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The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

## clone

**PRONUNCIATION:** klŏn

**NOUN:** **1.** A cell, group of cells, or organism that are descended from and genetically identical to a single common ancestor, such as a bacterial colony whose members arose from a single original cell. **2.** An organism descended asexually from a single ancestor, such as a plant produced by layering or a polyp produced by budding. **3.** A DNA sequence, such as a gene, that is transferred from one organism to another and replicated by genetic engineering techniques. **4.** One that copies or closely resembles another, as in appearance or function: *"filled with business-school clones in gray and blue suits"* (Michael M. Thomas).

**VERB:** Inflected forms: **cloned**, **clon-ing**, **clones**

**TRANSITIVE VERB:** **1.** To make multiple identical copies of (a DNA sequence). **2.** To create or propagate (an organism) from a clone cell: *clone a sheep*. **3.** To reproduce or propagate asexually: *clone a plant variety*. **4.** To produce a copy of; imitate closely: *"The look has been cloned into cliché"* (Cathleen McGuigan).

**INTRANSITIVE VERB:** To grow as a clone.

**ETYMOLOGY:** Greek *klŏn*, twig.

**OTHER FORMS:** **clon'al** (klŏ'nəl) —ADJECTIVE  
**clon'al-ly** —ADVERB  
**clon'er** —NOUN

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